



**World Organisation
for Animal Health**
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Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
Action Plan for 2024-2026



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Adopted by the Regional Commission for Europe on 27th May 2024

Introduction

The World Organisation for Animal Health Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (WOAH Platform) was created in 2013 to coordinate efforts to improve animal welfare in all 53 countries of Europe and to encourage Veterinary Services to act in compliance with the WOAH standards on animal welfare. Since its launch, the WOAH Platform already successfully implemented three Action Plans for 2014-2016, 2017-2019 and 2021-2023.

The foundations and principles for developing and implementing the proposed 4th Action Plan are laid down by Regional Commission for Europe in the Concept Note adopted in 2013 ([link](#)) and the Terms of Reference of the Platform adopted in 2020 ([link](#)).

The 4th Action Plan – covering 2024-2026 – has been developed by considering the needs identified by WOAH Member countries of the Regional Commission for Europe, the outcomes of and lessons learnt from the implementation of the initiatives taken over the last years, and the results of the external evaluation of the WOAH Platform activities (Annex 1). It will ensure the continuity with the previous ones by building upon their achievements, and by retaining the strategic purpose of empowering Veterinary Services to improve animal welfare across Europe, consistently with the objectives of the 7th WOAH Strategic Plan ([link](#)) and the WOAH Global Animal Welfare Strategy ([link](#)).

Achievements of the previous Action Plan (2021-2023)

The third Action Plan was implemented over three years 2021 – 2023 with the desired impact to improve animal welfare in Europe through five priority technical topics: transport, slaughter, dog population management, welfare of animals in disasters and working equids. Its adoption, initially expected by WOAH Regional Commission for Europe in May 2020, was later postponed to 2021 due to the global sanitary situation. Nevertheless, most of the planned activities have been carried out successfully and prompted the implementation of relevant additional initiatives taken over time by WOAH partners in Europe, with a clear and increasing focus on sustainability.

Transport

Over the last three years, the Platform continued with activities to support the implementation of the WOAH TACH Chapter 7.2 on the transport of animals by sea and 7.3 on the transport of animals by land. The activities focused the establishing a functioning network of National Contact Points on long-distance transportation for Europe to strengthen communication, collaboration and exchange of information between the competent authorities. Currently, 34 out of 53 WOAH members in Europe formally nominated their National Contact Points for long-distance transportation. The network held two initial meetings in an online format and also had the opportunity for comprehensive discussion at the meeting in Dublin, Ireland, in 2023.

A series of regional and multi-regional whole journey scenarios workshops (WJS) have been organized, giving an opportunity to enhance the understanding of key issues, share best practices and strengthen the inter-regional coordination and cooperation among all actors involved along the specific route(s) of transport within and beyond Europe, up to the Middle East and North Africa.

Dog population management

To date, eleven Balkan (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey), four Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine), and eight West Eurasian (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) WOAAH Members agreed on a shared vision: to reach full compliance, respectively by 2025 and 2030, with the WOAAH TAHC Chapter 7.7 through the implementation of country-specific national roadmaps on dog population management. Although considerable efforts are still needed, the vision remains achievable, in a context where the presence of free-roaming dogs remains a significant issue in some areas and rabies has not been fully eradicated from the region. The Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool (SAM Tool 1.0) has been highly instrumental to assess the impact of the Platform activities on the advances made throughout the time. This was highlighted in the occasion of the fourth WOAAH Regional Workshop on dog population management for the Balkans (SDB4) and during the flash online meeting held in replacement of the 4th workshop to be organized in Western Eurasia. On this occasion, five WOAAH Member Countries reported the existence of a National Action Plan for dog population (Greece, Kosovo, Russia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan). The individual Country reports developed on the basis the self-assessments conducted with the SAM Tool 1.0 have proven their worth in applying for financial support from international donors. In 2023, a new web-based Self-Assessment and Monitoring platform (SAM4DPM) has been developed in replacement of the SAM Tool 1.0, to help Member Countries to analyse their own data independently by automatizing the self-assessment process and allowing live-time and user-friendly analysis of the information. The Platform has also successfully continued to strengthen the level of technical assistance to the WOAAH Members by promoting a closer collaboration between key stakeholders, aiming at increasing the professional skills and capacities of the VSs involved in the development and implementation of the National Action plans and Dog Population Control Programs. Within this context, the RAWC (Regional Animal Welfare Centre) has prioritized public awareness and education initiatives on dog population management and have established a pool of twelve experts on Dog Population Management to strengthen the technical expertise of the personnel carrying out stray dog control activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, in line with the TAHC Chapter 7.7 recommendations.

Disaster management

The triennial pilot project aiming at assisting the European WOAAH Member Countries in promoting a culture of preparedness among Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders, to ensure appropriate livestock, wildlife and companion animal's assistance in the aftermath of catastrophic events, was concluded in 2021. After three years, nine targeted countries¹ have enhanced their understanding of the operational steps to be planned for preventing and mitigating the impact of natural disasters on animal welfare. A virtual Tabletop simulation exercise closed the pilot and gave the possibility to test and validate model contingency plans, identify key issues and areas for improvement, share and compare protocols, procedures and lessons learned by the Veterinary Services involved in the management of disruptive floods occurred over the time across the Balkans. Other WOAAH Members have shown the interest and motivation to support the program's replication in different parts of the region, by using alternative disaster scenarios (Spain, Portugal). A survey on the levels of "Veterinary Services' preparedness for animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters" was also completed. Forty-nine WOAAH Europe Members responded with a 92% completion rate. Fifty-two percent indicated they

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia

*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

incorporated animal welfare into their disaster planning whilst the thirty-one percent indicated they had no or limited legal authority to manage animal emergencies during natural disasters. In general, the results show a wide range of capacity to address animal welfare issues and provide the baseline for planning focused and actionable support in the case of catastrophic events. As part of a needs assessment exercise focusing on the level of Veterinary Services' preparedness in the region, the WOAAH organized an online Stakeholder Consultation meeting in collaboration with the IZS-Teramo/WOAH CC. The event brought together a group of relevant stakeholders and policy makers, and it offered an additional opportunity to take stock of the Platform progress, share experiences and knowledge, promote new partnerships, agree on key actions to foster a proactive attitude towards contingency planning from the One-Health perspective.

Slaughter of animals

The 3rd action plan had initially foreseen seminars to follow up on training sessions on slaughter conducted from 2015 to 2017 for Eastern Europe and Balkan countries. However, due to the difficulties linked to the organization of physical events and the concurrent revision of the TAHC Chapter 7.5, it has been decided to prioritize the development of an online training package.

The concept note of the online training package has been completed and submitted to the Steering Group and discussed with the Capacity Building Department. The call will be published in early 2024.

A dedicated thematic online webinar session on slaughter for the Focal Points on Animal Welfare was carried out in December 2023 focusing on the revision on the standards and presenting the update on development the e-module.

Working equids

The Steering Group suggested extending the list of targeted countries (initially targeted 8 Caucasus and Central Asia countries and now adding the Balkan region). The Steering Group also proposed to involve in the preparation of the event, the WOAAH CC animal welfare (both SLU and IZS Teramo are also partners in the EU reference centre on animal welfare for ruminants and equids) and the Regional Animal Welfare Centre. An online meeting, taking into account the Steering Group recommendations, took place in September 2023, aiming at raising awareness, further identifying WOAAH members' needs and discussing how to address WOAAH members' needs. This meeting clearly showed the importance of the working equids topic for the participants and helped in establishing a plan of work for the 4th action plan (2024-2026). The activities will be focused on helping countries identify their priorities and help them raising their level of implementation of the standards, through workshop and thematic meetings.

The external evaluation of WOAAH Platform

The external evaluation of WOAAH Platform was conducted between June – September 2023. The evaluation concluded that the Platform is highly relevant to Members and stakeholders. That is achieved through the Platform's consultative approach. A key strength of the Platform is that the needs of Members were also continually assessed, and the emerging challenges addressed as far as possible during the implementation of activities. This approach has been key in sustaining the relevance of the Platform and likely contributed to the results achieved. However, it would be important to document Members' needs to provide the rationale and justification for the focus and objectives of the fourth Action Plan.

Overall, the governance of the Platform has functioned efficiently, with effective coordination of stakeholder and activities. Most of the planned activities were implemented and in a relatively timely way given the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

An important achievement of the Platform was the creation of a theory of change, a results framework, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. These were well aligned with one another per se, but also had limitations. These limitations may have hindered progress and contributed to challenges – these included measuring progress toward compliance with WOAAH standards, the relative contribution of the

Platform's activities to improved compliance, and lack of clarity on the Platform's mandate amongst some stakeholders. It is important that these limitations are addressed.

The findings from the analysis of the theory of change in this evaluation should not detract from the achievements of the third Action Plan. Rather, this analysis highlights tangible and strategic actions that could be implemented to strengthen the effectiveness of the Platform. Having a complete theory of change would provide a vital foundation for the Platform moving forward.

Data from quantitative and qualitative sources illustrate that progress has been made towards achieving the Platform's objectives that go beyond the targets in the current Results Framework. A key task is to update the M&E system in light of the lessons learned from the third Action Plan to provide evidence of the actual changes in compliance with WOAHA animal welfare standards and potentially in animal welfare.

One of the most important challenges faced by the Platform has been the inability to provide substantive evidence on progress towards compliance with WOAHA animal welfare standards across all of its priority topics. This stemmed from challenges in developing appropriate indicators and tools to measure compliance. However, the development of the self-assessment monitoring (SAM) tool in the dog population management area has provided an important practical solution. The development of SAM tools and other appropriate tools for the other four topics should be a high priority.

An insufficient focus on 'lesson learning' may have limited the Platform's ability to make evidence-based improvements in activities, tools and materials, and to identify best practices. Given its level of expertise the Platform it would be well placed to develop and disseminate evidence-based best practices, especially if there are plans to share these more widely with Members or other regions.

The Platform has now been in existence for nine years but has thus far been unable to answer the question "what difference have the Platform activities made to animal welfare?" Without such information it is also difficult to assess whether any modifications are needed in the Platform's activities. The answer to this question is of interest to donors as well as Members and other stakeholders. It is acknowledged that measuring changes in animal welfare is challenging. However, it is vital for the Platform proactively explore ways to evaluate the impact of their work.

A key strength of the Platform has been its long-term strategy of building on the foundations and achievements and lessons of successive Action Plans. Consolidating on these successes and lessons in the fourth Action Plan would be of benefit.

Needs express by Members of the Platform

The initial proposal of the 4th Action Plan was shared for consultation with the Regional Commission for Europe, presented and discussed during the dedicated side event at the 90th WOAHA General Session, and during the 8th Platforms' stakeholders meeting. This confirmed the relevance of previously identified five priority topics: transport of animals, slaughter, dog population management, welfare of animals in disasters and working equids. The specific Members' needs for each priority topic were consulted and collected with participating Members during activities organised within the 3rd Action Plan of the Platform and other relevant WOAHA events.

The consultation on specific Members' needs concerning the **transport of animals** was mainly conducted through the established WOAHA network of National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe. In addition, technical item I (with questionnaire) on long distance transport of live animals from the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe in 2022 provided valuable insight into Members' needs. The Members expressed the need to continue strengthening communication and collaboration between Competent Authorities at regional and multiregional levels, supporting targeted capacity-building activities and developing methods and tools to help with the assessment of the implementation of WOAHA standards on transport.

The development of e-learning resources on **the slaughter of animals** was initiated under the 3rd action plan. The SG discussion highlighted a need for activities to support dissemination of e-learning resources materials through online/physical seminars. A thematic online webinar on the slaughter of animals for the National Focal Point on animal welfare is planned for December 2023 to present an

update on the development of an e-module and further consult on specific Member needs for capacity building for this priority topic.

Two regional roadmaps on **dog population management**, with regular biannual workshops and Members self-assessments, established an efficient mechanism to identify the specific needs of involved Members. The Members confirmed the need to support: the development and implementation of National Action plans and dog population management programs, the improvement of the technical expertise of Veterinary Services at the municipal/local level, and the assessment of the level of progress towards the full implementation of the new TAHC Chapter 7.7.

The WOA Platform, as part of the regional needs assessment **on welfare of animals in disasters**, conducted a survey on the levels of “Veterinary Services’ preparedness for animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters” and held an online stakeholder consultation meeting on “The role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters”. The participating WOA Members confirmed a need to support their activities to develop coordination mechanisms and further build their preparedness, strengthening competencies and improving on multi-hazard emergency management capacities of the Veterinary Services. WOA support should aim at developing guidance for building contingency plans and be combined with dedicated workshops and simulation exercises. In addition, mapping and prioritizing WOA Members’ competencies and resources at multi-disciplinary level (government bodies, NGO, private, industry, public) will help to identify, prioritize, and harmonize the building of appropriate technical skills.

A baseline survey on the **welfare of working equids**, targeting eight West Eurasian members², was conducted in 2019 to define the needs for working equids’ actions. In addition, following the SG recommendation, a regional online event on the welfare of working equids was held on 12th September 2023, aiming to raise awareness on the welfare of working equids and to further identify WOA members’ needs and discuss how to address their WOA members’ needs within planned activities. The participants, representing 14 WOA members from the Caucasus, Central Asia and Balkans, confirmed the need for WOA to assist members in implementing WOA standards on the welfare of working equids. The most relevant WOA actions and activities to support the Competent Authority in the implementation of standards and requirements on the welfare of working equids suggested by participants were to develop training programmes, providing additional guidance through other WOA documents, facilitate incorporation of the topic into veterinary education, support for dissemination of existing materials and developing awareness raising campaigns tools.

Objectives of the 4th Action Plan for 2024-2026

Impact (Long-term objective):

The desired impact of the 4th Action Plan is to contribute to the improvement of animal welfare in Europe through the following priority topics for the region: transport of animals by land and by sea, slaughter of animals, dog population management, welfare of working equids and welfare of animals during disasters.

Outcome Objectives (short/mid-term objective)

The short/mid-term objective is to progressively improve the compliance of WOA Members from the region of Europe with relevant chapters of the WOA Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction.

The 4th Action Plan, covering the period 2024-2026, ensures the continuity with the three previous Action Plans and it focuses on strengthening the WOA Members involvement in the development of standards

² Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

and the regional collaboration towards its implementation, including through the work of National Focal Points on Animal Welfare.

The WOAHA Platform continues to collaborate with all countries and stakeholders involved in animal welfare in Europe who share a common vision and agree in the implementation of activities under the Action Plan. In this regard, efforts are made to prevent duplication of existing activities/programmes on animal welfare in the region and to better organize synergies and resource pooling (EU and NGOs projects, etc).

A comprehensive Result Framework and the Theory of Change used to develop the 3rd Action Plan was revised and can be consulted in Annex 1 and Annex 2.

Scope of the 4th Action Plan for 2024-2026

The scope of the Action Plan is as follow:

Continuity on the five priority topics of the previous Action Plans:

1. Transport of animals by land (WOAHA TAHC Chapter 7.3), with an extension to also cover transport of animals by sea (WOAHA TAHC Chapter 7.2)
2. Slaughter of animals (WOAHA TAHC Chapter 7.5)
3. Dog population management (WOAHA TAHC Chapter 7.7)
4. Welfare of animals in disasters (WOAHA Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health)
5. Welfare for Working Equids (WOAHA TAHC Chapter 7.12)

Activities of the 4th Action Plan for 2024-2026

The 4th Action Plan aims towards the desired impact of through series specific activities on identified priority topics for the region: transport of animals by land and by sea, slaughter of animals, dog population management, welfare of working equids and welfare of animals during disasters.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS		
ACTIVITIES PLANNED		ACRONYM
Development of e-learning resources	Launch of the call early 2024	
Dissemination the e-learning module 2025-2026	Seminar(s) for Eastern Europe and Balkans (the type of seminars will be defined according to members needs and available resources.	SoS
Development of a self-assessment and monitoring tool on slaughter	Launch of the call 2025	
<p>Expected outcomes: The development of e-learning resources based on improved and updated existing training materials on the welfare of animals at slaughter was initiated under the 3rd action plan.</p> <p>The dissemination of the developed e -resources focusing non-EU countries through online events as well as targeted capacity building activities.</p> <p>The online/physical seminar(s) to support dissemination e-learning resources.</p> <p>The specific dedicated activities may be organized standalone courses, part dedicated Training-of-Trainers (ToT) session or other training activities etc. according to expressed WOH members' needs, available funding including funding for follow up cascading activities within WOH members.</p> <p>The adaptation of the materials considering the ongoing revision of Chapter 7.5 on the slaughter of animals</p> <p>Development of a self-assessment and monitoring methodology and tool on transport to better understand the current situation of European countries in terms of compliance with WOH TAHC Chapters 7.5 and for measuring progress overtime.</p>		

TRANSPORT

ACTIVITIES PLANNED		ACRONYM
Regional network of contact points on long distance transportation in Europe.,	4 th meeting (online)(2024)	NCPT4
	5 th meeting (physical)(2025)	NCPT5
	6 th meeting (online)(2026)	NCPT6
Whole journey scenario workshops	WJS workshop Europe (2024)	WJS-E3
	Multi-regional WJS workshop Europe, North Africa and the Middle East (2025)	WJS-M4
	WJS workshop Europe (2025)	WJS-E4
	WJS workshop Europe (2026)	WJS-E5
Development of a self-assessment and monitoring tool on transport	Launch of the call early 2024	

Expected outcomes:

The regional network of contact points on long distance transportation in Europe was formally established and will continue annual meetings for strengthening collaboration and coordination between countries and sharing information and best practises on live animal transport.

Whole journey scenario workshops involve all countries along long-distance routes, to ensure the knowledge and commitment of the respective Competent Authorities as regards animal welfare from origin to destination. Within the 4th action plan two Multi-regional WJS workshop Europe, North Africa and the Middle East are planned to address specific issues, strengthening collaboration and coordination between countries in the context of transport of livestock between Europe, Middle East and North Africa. The selection of specific routes for Europe region will be address within the network of contact points and with dedicated session of NCPT meeting according to the needs.

Development of a self-assessment and monitoring methodology and tool on transport to better understand the current situation of European countries in terms of compliance with WOH TAHC Chapters 7.2 and 7.3 and allow for measuring progress over time.

DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITIES PLANNED		ACRONYM
Dog Population Management Roadmaps (regional workshops on dog population management)	6 th workshop for the Balkan countries (2024)	<i>DPMB6</i>
	5 th workshop for the West-Eurasian (2025)	<i>DPMWE5</i>
	7 th workshop for the Balkan countries (2026)	<i>DPMB7</i>
Regular support for the SAM4DPM self-assessment rounds	Periodic flash thematic meetings (specific identified needs) – 2024-2026	<i>TM-DPM</i>

Expected outcomes:

Two-yearly workshops have proven being effective for the Platform Secretariat to strengthen the capacity of Veterinary Services in addressing animal welfare and public health aspects of dog population management. The same methodology will be applied for the 2024 - 2026 period.

The new SAM4DPM will enable the WOAHA Members to continuously and autonomously monitor and assess the implementation of WOAHA standards on dog population management and the progress of their own National Roadmaps.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT	
ACTIVITIES PLANNED	ACRONYM
Bridging workshop on disaster management risk reduction (2024)	W-DMRR
Regional multi hazard workshop on contingency planning for animal welfare in natural disasters for Europe (2024)	RMHW
Thematic meetings for interested countries in Europe (2025-2026)	TM-DM
Simulation exercise for the testing of selected countries contingency plans for animal welfare in natural disasters in Europe (2026)	SE1
<p>Expected outcomes:</p> <p>The outcomes of the pilot project on natural disaster preparedness in the Balkans, the results of the survey on the "Levels of Veterinary Services' preparedness for dealing with animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters" and the conclusions of the online Stakeholders' Consultation meeting on "The role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters in Europe" confirmed a high level of commitment to maintain a proactive attitude towards contingency planning to mitigate the impact on animal welfare and improve the survival and recovery of animals from various kinds of catastrophic events.</p> <p>Based on the previous experiences, the new activities will allow Veterinary Services to strengthen their multi-hazard emergency management capacities and skills, and to expand the geographical scope of the Platform initiatives on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction with a One Health approach.</p>	

WORKING EQUIDS	
ACTIVITIES PLANNED	ACRONYM
Workshop on Working Equids (2024) – back to back to the National Focal Point on animal welfare meeting	WWE1
Thematic online meeting on Working Equids (2024-2026)	TM-WE
Seminar on Working Equids 2-3 days meeting (2025) the type of seminar will be defined depending on members needs and available resources.	SWE1
Workshop on Working Equids (2026)	WWE2
<p>Expected outcomes:</p> <p>The expected outcomes are that countries will have identified their specific priorities and help them raise their level of implementation of the TAHC Chapter 7.12 on welfare of working equids. Proposed activities focus on building awareness and knowledge within Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders in targeted countries. Those activities will focus on support facilitate dissemination available knowledge resources tools with all relevant stakeholders</p>	

GOVERNANCE

ACTIVITIES PLANNED		ACRONYM
Steering Group meetings	22 nd Steering Group meeting (2024)	SG22
	23 rd Steering Group meeting (2024)	SG23
	24 th Steering Group meeting (2025)	SG24
	25 th Steering Group meeting (2025)	SG25
	26 th Steering Group meeting (2026)	SG26
	27 th Steering Group meeting (2026)	SG27

Expected outcomes: Two Steering Group meetings per year have proven to be fully effective for the Platform Secretariat to report on implementation of the action plan and discuss relevant guidance. The SG will meet twice a year with alternating meeting in online and physical format.

COMMUNICATION

ACTIVITIES PLANNED		ACRONYM
Website	Content update	
Continuous translation of documents in the Russian language		
Newsletter		NL2024
		NL2025
		NL2026
Advocacy documents	As needed	

Expected outcomes: The website remains the main communication tool of the WOAHA Platform. Regular updates are critical elements to ensure countries and stakeholders involvement in WOAHA Platform activities. Following the launch of WOAHA regional website for Europe, migration of the content of the Platform website to the new environment was started to ensure harmonization with new WOAHA branding and communication strategy. The migration also enhances the security and facilitate technical maintenance of the Platform website.

The translation of documents into Russian should be a permanent activity to ensure the full contribution/participation of the “Russian speaking” countries in the AW activities.

Newsletters promotes the activities and achievements of the Platform and will continue be published on annual basis.

STAKEHOLDER'S COORDINATION

ACTIVITIES PLANNED		ACRONYM
Annual consultation meeting of the platform stakeholders	9 th stakeholders' consultation meeting (2024)	SC9
	10 th stakeholders' consultation meeting (2025)	SC10
	11 th stakeholders' consultation meeting (2026)	SC11
<p>Creating synergies and complementarities with all AW partners in Europe is indispensable in a context of limited budget. The format and themes of these consultation meetings will be reviewed annually to best meet expectations.</p>		

Monitoring and evaluation

ACTIVITIES PLANNED		ACRONYM
Consultancy contract to revise the monitoring and evaluation system of the Platform		C-M&E
Monitoring and evaluation of the Platform		M&E4
External Evaluation		EE3
<p>The theory of change (Annex 2) alongside the results framework (Annex 1) with list of defined indicators for impact, outcomes and outputs establish basis for the overall evaluation of the Platform performance. Still structured methods and tools need to be developed to collect and analyse the data for the Platform evaluation. To help the Secretariat in having an efficient monitoring and evaluation system, an opportunity to hire consultant will be explored.</p> <p>The external evaluation allows to provide a reasoned and analytical assessment of the initiative as a basis to guide the future development of the Platform to WOA, current and future donors, and WOA Platform members and stakeholders.</p> <p>Further to the development of the Platform self-assessment tool, there is need for other monitoring tools for each specific priority topic to helps to assess impact, results and to define further specific activities for each priority topic</p>		

Beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders

The Action Plan for the period 2024-2026 targets the following groups:

Beneficiaries:

- WOAHA Members of the Regional Commission for Europe.
- Professionals dealing with animal welfare:
 - Veterinary Services (public and private sectors),
 - Veterinary education establishments,
 - Farmers, owners, handlers,
 - Business operators,
 - NGOs,
 - General public.

Financial and Technical Partners:

- Other stakeholders and resource partners

The participation of partners and stakeholders is ensured at 3 different levels:

- Advisers in the Steering Group of the WOAHA Platform (Members; Observers – considered on *ad hoc* basis when their contribution to specific topic of the agenda is necessary)
- Experts to participate in the delivery of specific activities of the WOAHA Platform
- Financial support for the implementation of the Action Plan

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation

The Secretariat of the Platform oversees monitoring of the implementation of the 4th Action Plan for the period 2024-2026. It will report on activities of the WOAHA Platform to the Steering Group and to the Regional Commission for Europe during following events:

- Meetings of the Regional Commission for Europe during the General Sessions
- Meetings of the regional Core Group (RCG)
- Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe
- Meetings of the Platform's Steering Group
- Regional animal welfare focal points seminars

A monitoring and evaluation are based on set of indicators listed in the results framework (Annex 1) to assess progress, impact and efficiency effectiveness of the Platform

Indicative timetable for the implementation of the third Action Plan for 2024-2026

Activities of the Platform	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SLAUGHTER (SA)												
SA_A1 Regional seminars										SoS		
SA_A2 E-learning resources	Launch of the call					Delivery of the e-modules						
SA_A3 Slaughter Self-Assessment Tool					Launch of the call							Delivery of the tool
TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS (TA)												
TA_A1 Whole journey scenario workshops				WJS-E3				WJS-M4				WJS-E4
TA_A2 Transport contact points meeting		NCPT4 (online)				NCPP5 (in-person)				NCPT6 (online)		
TA_A3 Transport Self-Assessment Tool			Launch of the call			Delivery of the tool		First round of assessment				
DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT CONTROL												
SD_A1 Regional roadmap for Balkans				DPMB6						DPMB7		
SD_A2 Self-Assessment and Monitoring Balkans	3 rd self-assessment exercise					4 th self-assessment						
SD_A3 Regional roadmap for Wester Eurasia							DPMWE5					
SD_A4 Self-Assessment and Monitoring West Eurasia			3 rd self-assessment exercise								4 th self-assessment exercise	
SD_A5 Periodic flash thematic meetings					When needed				When needed			
DISASTER MANAGEMENT (DM)												

Activities of the Platform	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
DM_A1 Bridging Workshop on DMRR	W-DMRR											
DM_A2 Regional Multi Hazard Workshop			RMHW									
DM_A2 Thematic meetings					When needed				When needed			
DM_A3 Simulation exercise											SE1	
WORKING EQUIDS (WE)												
WE_A1 Workshop on Working Equids			WWE1 (BTB FP)								WWE2	
WE_A2 Thematic meetings	When needed											
WE_A3 Seminar on Working Equids							SWE1					
GOVERNANCE		SG22		SG23		SG24		SG25		SG26		SG27
COMUNICATION												
Website of the Platform	Update				Update				Update			
Newsletters			NL2024				NL2025				NL2026	
Russian translations of documents												
STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION		SC9				SC10				SC11		
MONITORING AND EVALUATION			C-M&E				External evaluation					
Other WOAH activities relevant to the Platform												
2.4 Seminar for New Delegates	<i>(upon request)</i>											
3.1 Seminar for National Focal Points on animal welfare for Europe			TBC							TBC		
3.2 PVS Pathway	<i>(upon request)</i>											

Annex 1 - Result Framework

Results statement	Indicator (for 3 years unless indicated otherwise)	Baseline	Target	MoV	Assumptions
Impact1: Improved animal welfare in Europe				Through outcome 1	Implementation of WOAHA standards improve animal welfare
Outcome 1: Members improved compliance with WOAHA standards 7.2, 7.3, 7.5 7.7, & 7.12 and guidance (emergency preparedness)	Proportion of countries that have an improvement in their level of implementation with 7.7 WOAHA standards through country self-assessments / to the countries targeted by Platform activities	The last use of a self-assessment tool before end 2023 for the 23 countries targeted by platform activities	70%	Self-assessment reports	Countries targeted by the Platform activities use the SAM4DPM to do self-assessments on dog population management. An improvement of 15% in 3 years from the baseline is considered as an improvement or countries above 85% of implementation
	Proportion of countries that have an improvement in their level of implementation with 7.2 & 7.3 WOAHA standards through country self-assessments (transport)/to the countries targeted by Platform activities	Technical item at the conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, Observatory Technical Study on transport	60%	Self-assessment reports (once the tool developed)	The self-assessment tool is operating by 2025. Countries that nominated a National Contact Point on long-distance transportation use the developed self-assessment tool. An improvement of 15% in 3 years from the baseline is considered as an improvement or countries above 85% of implementation
	Proportion of countries that have an improvement in their level of implementation with 7.5 WOAHA standards through country self-assessments (slaughter)	The last use of a self-assessment tool before end 2023 for the XX countries targeted by	40%	To be done once the self-assessment tool is developed	The self-assessment tool is operating by 2026. Countries targeted by the Platform activities use the self-assessment tool to do self-assessments on dog population management (to be determine before the self-assessment tool is operating)

	/ to the countries targeted by Platform activities	platform activities			An improvement of 15% in 3 years from the baseline is considered as an improvement or countries above 85% of implementation.
	Proportion of countries with VS-CP for disaster management/to the countries targeted by Platform activities	XX/9 countries target by platform activities	60%	Meeting reports	The countries target by this indicator will work on their VS-CP following their participation to the pilot project (under the 3 rd action plan) and 4 th action plan relevant activities (number of countries to be determine during the 2024 activities)
	Proportion of countries with legislation, and identification and registration system for working equids	XX/8 countries target by the 2019 survey	70%	Meeting reports (pool made during the meetings)	Use the question asked during the 2019 survey, that were also asked during the awareness meeting in 2023 to monitor the progress
Outcome 2: Improved coordination and cooperation among stakeholders to ensure animal welfare	Proportion of National Contact Points for long-distance transportation in Europe that contacted another NCP during a year	11/49 (June 2022-June 2023)	60%	Meeting reports, Direct exchange with countries	The network on long-distance transportation in Europe supports exchanges in between the Contact Points
	Proportion of NCP for long-distance transportation in Europe that exchange with countries outside the Europe region target by the Whole Journey Scenario workshop	2/7 (Europe participants to the last WJS workshop, nov 2022)	70%	Meeting reports, Direct exchanges with countries	The Inter-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshops supports exchanges between countries. Baseline: obtained by specific interactions with countries, not all of the 7 countries were question on the topic
Outcome 3: Improved raising awareness on the importance of animal welfare	Number of visits to animal welfare pages to the regional website for Europe each year	2464 (2023) <i>Number of visit on the AW part of the website in 2023</i>	Double the number of 2023	Google Analytics	All activities and the documents related to those activities are published on the website

	Number of events to which the AW platform Secretariat was invited to deliver a presentation on its activities	9 (2022)	12	Regional Office monthly reports	Multiple participations to the same BTSF is counted as 1 of event
Outcome 4: Improved capacity of WOAHA Members to ensure animal welfare	Average score of individuals trained through e-modules on animal welfare	No baseline – e-modules to be created	Needs to know how the score is calculated on the e-learning platform	WOAHA training platform analytics	e-modules to be ready by 2025 countries to follow the e-modules
	Proportion of national plans developed to address animal welfare challenges under the Platform activities/ to the countries targeted by Platform activities	XX/32	50%	Meeting reports	National action plans on dog population management and veterinary services contingency plan including animal welfare in natural disasters A country can be accounted 2 times if he is expected to developed both plans under Platform activities Countries involve in the relevant activities of the Platform works on developing those plans (dog population management and disaster management).
Outputs 1: Engagement mechanism for coordination and communication provided (network, emails, website, ...)	Number of meetings for coordination conducted (national contact points, whole journey scenario)	0	6	Regional workplan	

	Proportion of countries represented in coordination meetings	Number of countries invited to the meeting	80%	Meeting reports	Countries invited to the meetings can attend the meeting
	Number of website updates	0	36	Regional website	
	Number of stakeholder meetings conducted	0	3	Regional workplan	
	Number of newsletters shared	0	3	Regional workplan	
	Number of steering group meetings conducted	0	6	Regional workplan	
Output 2: Training on priority animal welfare topics are provided	Number of trainings provided through face to face format	0	1	Regional workplan	Seminar on slaughter
	Number of e-modules developed on priority topics	0	1	Regional workplan	e-module on slaughter
	Proportion of participants who attended face to face trainings	Number of participants invited to the meeting	80%	Meeting report	Countries invited to the meetings can attend the meeting
	Proportion of countries that have at least one trained individual through e-modules	0/53	50%	WOAH training platform analytics	E-modules available on the WOAH training platform Countries participate in the e-modules
	Number of individuals trained through e-modules	0	100	WOAH training platform analytics	
Output 3: Stakeholders' roles are introduced/ and promoted (excluding Members)	Number of stakeholders engaged in animal welfare platform invited to the stakeholders' meeting	21 stakeholders invited to the meeting in 2023	21 + 1 (same number) + 1	Meetings reports	To maintain the engagement with the actual stakeholders Try to find new ones
	Number of stakeholders participating in Platform	0	30	Meetings reports	To associate the stakeholders to the majority of our activities in relation to their

	events to present and promote their roles (excluding stakeholders' meeting)				own activities and them responding positively to our invitation
Output 4: Tools are developed and used to ensure monitoring and evaluation of implementation of animal welfare standards	Number of the tools developed on animal welfare	0	2	Regional workplan (Smartsheet)/ tools	Development of the self-assessment tool for Transport and Slaughter
	Number of countries that used self-assessment tools	0	60	Tool analytics	A country is counted 1 time for each tool he used at least 1 time through the 3 years of the Action Plan Tools: SAM Tool 2.0 for dog population management and transport and slaughter when developed
	Proportion of countries trained on the use of the tools	Number of countries invited to the training	70%	Meeting report	Countries can come to the training
Output 5: Members in Europe are supported to take action on animal welfare	Total amount of financial resources secured for the implemented of action plan	XX (2023)	XX (same amount per year)	EID database	The amount of financial resources needs to be aligned with the human resources available No increase of the cost of the activities through the Action Plan
	Number of staff dedicated to providing support on animal welfare	2,5 (2023)	2,5 per year	AWP Secretariat (Brussels)	The amount of human resources needs to be aligned with the financial resources

Annex 2 - Theory of Change

